

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget cuts \$24 billion from Social Security. Seniors who have worked hard their whole lives will lose hundreds of dollars in Social Security benefits. Social Security is a contract that we've made with our Nation's seniors. The Republican budget tears that contract into pieces.

The Republican budget cuts \$283 billion from Medicare. The Republican budget will eliminate Medicare as we know it by herding seniors into HMO's and by charging them \$3,500 more for their health care. Seniors who depend on Medicare will be out of luck.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget breaks faith with the millions of American seniors who depend on Medicare and Social Security to make ends meet.

Day after day we have heard how the Republicans have kept their promises to the American people. One after another the Republicans told us that promises made are promises kept.

Well Mr. Speaker, today we learn that Republican promises made are promises broken.

Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican majority promised that they would not cut Social Security benefits. They promised not to devastate Medicare.

But what is the truth? What does their new budget say?

This is how the Republicans keep their promises: By cutting Medicare. By cutting Social Security. The American people deserve better.

#### BROKEN PROMISES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, Republicans love to get up here everyday and talk about promises made and promises kept, but it seems that my GOP colleagues have forgotten our sacred promise to take care of America's senior citizens. In fact, under the GOP budget proposal, released yesterday, seniors take a double hit.

First, Republicans cut health care for seniors. The GOP budget reduces Medicare spending by \$283 billion over 7 years—a 25-percent reduction in the year 2002. Then, to make matters worse, Republicans turn around and reduce Social Security benefits for seniors by \$24 billion between 1999 and 2002.

Now, Speaker GINGRICH calls these cuts painless. But, they are not painless to the millions of seniors who rely on Medicare and Social Security to help pay the bills and make ends meet.

Republicans promised to protect Medicare. Republicans promised that Social Security would be off the table during this budget debate. Promises made, promises broken.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET AND NATION'S CHILDREN

(Mr. POMEROY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, we had a long day in the House Committee on the Budget yesterday. I am here to tell Members about one aspect of the Republican plan to balance the budget that they do not want to talk much about. That is about the deep cuts in Medicare, \$184 billion over the next 7 years. And the impact of these would take health insurance away from 5 million kids that now have it. It is taking a health care problem in this country and making it much worse by depriving 5 million kids of health insurance coverage.

The plan does not stop there, because it also assaults the elderly that depend upon Medicaid to help them defray the cost of nursing home expenses when they have exhausted their personal accounts. What will happen to some in a nursing home that has exhausted their life savings? Will they be put out on the street when the Republican Medicaid cuts begin to hit and there are no more funds available? Will they be forced to move in with their children who are already struggling to make it and provide for the college education of their children?

These are questions that need to be answered as we flesh out the Republican budget. Disaster for kids; disaster for seniors.

#### SHRINKING THE BUDGET

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, if they are making a movie this summer of the Republican budget, I think it can be titled "Honey, I Shrunk the Budget and I Blew Up the Economy." I blew it up by gutting Medicare, cutting it up to 25 percent. And who will pay for that? Senior citizens, by not getting care; businesses and young people, by having to pay more insurance premiums; hospitals that have to close because they cannot absorb these kinds of losses.

Blew up the economy by cutting programs that bring growth. Student loans cut by \$33 billion. Student loans that affect almost every person in this country. The Economic Development Administration, the linchpin for so much industrial development, the Appalachian Regional Commission terminated. These grow the economy; the Republican budget shrinks it. Balancing the budget, Mr. Speaker, is important for a strong economy. But not with this budget and not one that bankrupts the economy.

#### KEEP PRESSURE ON JAPAN

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, recently the United States and Japan resumed automobile trade talks and these talks have collapsed. The talks were aimed at opening the Japanese market to autos and auto parts.

The United States presented new proposals in the two priority areas—improved foreign access to Japan's auto markets and increase sales of auto parts in both the United States and Japan. Japan's auto market remains closed. It has been stated Japan sells as many cars in a week in the United States as United States automakers sell a whole year in Japan.

Japan continues to maintain a closed economy which discriminates against United States auto exports and effects international economics. Japanese officials have expressed dismay over what they termed new demands at a late stage of talks.

Currently, there is a \$36.7 billion United States-Japan gap in trade in autos and auto parts. This gap has to be decreased. Japan's market share of auto imports is only 4 percent. In addition, Japan's market share of auto imports is only 2.4 percent.

Nearly 2 years of negotiations have failed to produce an agreement in the United States-Japan auto trade talks. The administration announced tough trade sanctions against Japan. These sanctions will probably entail higher tariffs on Japanese imports worth billions of dollars a year.

I urge USTR and the administration to remain tough on Japan. The United States-Japan gap in trade is not reflective of the competitiveness of United States autos and auto parts. The United States is manufacturing auto and auto parts that are capable of competing in the Japanese market. The quality of United States products would gradually bring about a reduction of the deficit, if Japan would only begin to open their market.

We need to send Japan a clear message that we will not back down on the opening of their markets to auto and auto parts. If they refuse to negotiate, we should promptly enact tough sanctions.

#### CLEAN WATER ACT PROTECTIONS THREATENED BY H.R. 961

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 961 because I know that rolling back essential protections of the Clean Water Act will not contribute to the health and welfare of my constituents. In communities such as mine, water quality problems still persist. In addition to New York City-wide problems with giardia, a bacteria that causes stomach ailments, the families in my district